

<b>FILED</b>
Date _____
Time _____
Clerk _____
Comm. Amdt. _____
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AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Sponsor

**AMEND Senate Bill No. 2489**

**House Bill No. 2351\***

by adding the following new section immediately preceding the severability clause and by renumbering the subsequent sections accordingly.

Section \_\_. (a) The General Assembly finds and declares that:

(1) A healthy and viable dairy industry is essential to the wellbeing of this state's economy and citizenry;

(2) A stable, local supply of pure, wholesome milk is important to the health and welfare of this state;

(3) Dairy farms and their owners can provide such a safe, wholesome and dependable supply if a reasonably stable marketplace can assure the economic viability of the dairy industry;

(4) Recent, dramatic price fluctuations are troubling to the dairy industry;

(5) The southern dairy industry is regional in character and has issues that must be addressed through cooperative interstate action;

(6) Market regulation must be undertaken only with due consideration and great care; and

(7) Such alternatives as establishing minimum milk prices, setting a level of such minimum prices, and engaging in cooperative interstate regulatory action should be carefully considered to determine if they are in the public interest.

(b) There is created a special study committee to study the dairy industry in Tennessee and the impact of a Southern Dairy Compact on all aspects of the dairy industry and the consumers of dairy products.

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(c) The special study committee shall be composed of eleven (11) members to be appointed as follows:

(1) Three (3) members of the senate, appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(2) Three (3) members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) One (1) member who is a dairy farmer, appointed by the president of the Tennessee Farm Bureau;

(4) One (1) member who represents the processors of dairy products, appointed by the speaker of the senate;

(5) One (1) member, who is a retailer of dairy products, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(6) One (1) member who is a consumer of dairy products and who is without any direct financial or business affiliation with the dairy industry, appointed jointly by speakers of the senate and the house of representatives; and

(7) One (1) member who is knowledgeable in the economics and finances of agriculture and who is without any direct financial or business affiliation with the dairy industry, appointed jointly by speakers of the senate and the house of representatives.

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(d) In the appointment of the non-legislative members to the committee, the speakers are requested to consider geographic balance in the representation of such members.

(e) In its deliberations, the special study committee shall study and examine the advantages and disadvantages to the dairy industry and to the Tennessee consumer of dairy products, including but not limited to, the economic impact of the pricing structure for dairy products under such compact on the producer, processor, retailer and consumer. The committee may also study any other provision of this act or of the compact resulting from this act.

(f) All appropriate agencies, institutes and departments of the state and its institutions of higher education shall provide assistance to the special study committee upon request of the chair.

(g) All non-legislative members shall be reimbursed for their expenses in accordance with the provisions of the comprehensive travel regulations promulgated by the department of finance and administration and approved by the attorney general.

(h) The special study committee shall be convened by the member with the most years of continuous service in the General Assembly and at its first meeting shall elect a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee deems necessary.

(i) The special study committee shall report its findings and recommendations including any proposed legislation or interim reports to the One Hundred First General Assembly no later than January 28, 1999. After January 28, 1999, the committee shall

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cease to exist unless additional time is requested by the chair of the committee and approved by the speakers of the senate and the house of representatives, in which case the final report shall be submitted by January 27, 2000, when the committee shall cease to exist.

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